

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application and presented for examination. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claim 1 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. No new matter has been added with the foregoing amendment. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has indicated that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

I. Claims 1-3, drawn to a method for improving adsorption of a drug on the gastrointestinal mucous layers;

II. Claims 4-8, drawn to compositions comprising at least a drug and one or more polymers selected from polyethylene glycol, polyethylene oxide, and polyoxyethylene polypropylene copolymer.

Applicants hereby elect Group II, drawn to compositions comprising at least a drug and one or more polymers selected from polyethylene glycol, polyethylene oxide, and polyoxyethylene polypropylene copolymer, with traverse. Claims readable thereon include claims 4-8.

In addition, with regard to the species election, Applicants elect polyethylene glycol. At the bottom of page 3 of the Restriction Requirement, the Examiner has authorized an election of one of the three polymers/co-polymers claimed as a species election. Claims readable thereon include claims 4-8.

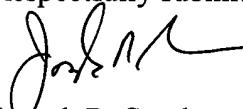
As the Examiner is aware, under M.P.E.P. § 821.04, if Applicants elect claims directed to the product, and the product claims are allowable, withdrawn process claims which depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claims must be rejoined. Process claims, which depend from, or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product, will be entered *as a matter of right*. Therefore, after the product claims are found allowable, Applicants respectfully request action on the merit of all claims, including Group I.

Appl. No. 10/672,398
Amdt. dated August 1, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 1, 2005

PATENT

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request early action on the merits. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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